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Book and Job Printing

PROMPTLY AND NEATLY EXECUTED.

POETRY.

[For the Oxford Democrat.]

Written upon hearing the Cannon's thunder

from Rumford Falls, July 5th, 1847.

Hark! I hear the cannon's thunder

Loudly booming through the land;

Startling the deep shades with wonder,

Echoing round on every hand.

Down the Androscoggin's valley

In a solid stream it pours,

Mid the mountains, thro' the valleys

Loud—more loud—the echo roars.

Hark! again the stream is pouring

From the cannon's burning mouth,

Like the distant thunder roaring

Down the valleys, to the South.

Hark! what means it? even childhood

Knows the Anthem of the Free!

Thro' the city, thro' the wild wood,

'Tis the Nation's Jubilee!

Yes! the cannon's noise awakens

Here, no thought of foreign arms,

No alarm of foe's invasions.

No dread thought of war's alarms.

Yes! thank God, no War is o'er us,

No gaunt Famine in our land;

But, with smiles, we see before us

Peace and Plenty, hand in hand.

No! we fear no frightful slaughter

In this happy land of ours;

But the shrieking wife and daughter

Flies, amid the Southern flowers.

We—such trophies will might cheer us

In the hour of sorest need—

We bring back the Bones of Heroes,

We bring back the Warrior's Steed.

Al! a prayer we well may utter—

That dread Slavery's chains be broke;

Those who fight for Freedom's Altar,

Never may yield to foreign yoke.

Wo, who boast the name of Freemen,

Shouting, when our Fathers bled,

May add degraded men and women

To lift up the drooping head.

O, that we, who boast so loudly

Freedom from oppressive foes,

O, that we might boast as proudly

Freedom from domestic woes!

Free from Ignorance and Folly,

Free from Mammon's cares and pains,

Then, we will wield fire a volley

Over Slavery's broken chains!

S.

THE STORY TELLER.

[From N. A. Saturday Gazette.]

COUSIN THEO.

BY EDITH MAY.

Do you see the spirited animal that stands
pawing the fresh turf of the lawn just beneath my
window? And do you see the lady at his side,
who draws the minute gambit upon her hand,
and adjusts the heavy folds of her habit ere she
prepares to mount? She laughs and shakes her
head at the old gray-headed negro, who extends
his ebony palm as a substitute for the dis-
carded block, and then, anxiously tending the pom-
mel, with one bound from the velvet saddle she
is mounted. Gathering up the reins, and strik-
ing her beautiful palfrey lightly with the whip,
she passes at a slow canter down the green
slope and through the open gate, pausing there
one moment as she catches a glimpse of my wak-
ing handkerchief, to bow with an air of mock
courtliness, and to wait me a gay salute from
the tips of her white gloves.

She does not give her head the rein up-
on the broad, level road that she has just gained,
but urges him towards the fence that enclosed
the opposite meadow. How beautifully he
gathers himself up for the leap! Over—not
with the diving, plunging action of a common
horse, but with the bound of a hunted stag—
boldly done, sweet cousin Theo, but rashly too,
methinks even for you, most peerless horse-
man that you are. Now she has crossed the
meadow: now upon the brow of your long, low
hill she skirts the forest that rises ere-like up
on its summit, while the wind that sleeps in the
valleys springs joyously to meet her, tossing the
black plumes of her riding hat, and lifting the
long, light curls that float so gracefully upon her
shoulders.

How easily she sits her horse—no effort—no
painful jarring is apparent. Stead and rider
move as with but one will. She does not bend
over her bridle, nor lean back until her own
veteran ache in sympathy, nor, yet worse,
hanging upon the pomel with foot deep-thrust
into the soles of their stirrups, does she appear
rather more troublesome appendage of the noble
creature she guides, than its mistress and his

queen. Not such a rider is my cousin Theo—
Would you know in what school she acquired
her matchless confidence and dexterity? I will
tell you.

It is now ten years since my orphan cousin,
Theodore C—, first bade adieu to the tyranny
of the fashionable governess with whom she had
passed the greater portion of her childhood, to
become an adept in the mysteries of a country
life.

Fresh from the hands of the posture master
and the Parisian danseuse, the hair-dresser and
the imported modiste: our refined little lady
was abandoned to the tenor mercies of a horde
of savages, for so indeed, it must have seemed
to her upon her first arrival.

The manner of our introduction was very
much as follows: "Ellen," said my father, "come
welcome your cousin Theo."

Forthwith a thin, brown girl, with black hair
hung in elf locks upon her shoulders, with a
pasteboard hat swung over one arm, and a
hoop over, as other, came forward, and bash-
fully approached her lips to the cheek of the
new comer.

This, then brown girl, gentle reader, was my
self.

But totally disregarding the proffered salute,
the little woman of thirteen rose gracefully,
courtesied until the flounce of her short dress
literally swept the carpet, and finally, with
extreme ceremony, touched the fingers of my
extended hand.

Disconcerted, I drew back, crimsoning to the
temples, while my father turned hastily away to
conceal a smile.

Then followed a series of interrogations.

"Where is Charles, Ellen?"

"Fishing in the mill-pond, papa."

"And Fred?"

"Breaking the white colt, sir."

"And Phil?"

"I saw him enter the meadow just now with
his gun and pointers."

"And where have you been, Ellen? Why
in this happy land of ours?"

"But the shrieking wife and daughter
Flies, amid the Southern flowers."

"We—such trophies will might cheer us
In the hour of sorest need—"

"We bring back the Bones of Heroes,
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on its summit, while the wind that sleeps in the
valleys springs joyously to meet her, tossing the
black plumes of her riding hat, and lifting the
long, light curls that float so gracefully upon her
shoulders.

Wholly unaccustomed to riding, Theo had
been strictly forbidden to mount a horse, until
one sufficiently gently could be procured; and
in reward for sundry unlikely feats of eque-
strism, I had received the same interdiction.

But passionately fond of the exercise, and tempt-
ed by the beauty of the day, I was willing to
embrace at all hazards what was to me, then,
the pleasure of pleasures; so made conscious of
each other's rebellious intentions by the free-
masonry of a look, hand in hand, as I have
said, we proceeded towards that quarter of the
garden where Cesar, our dusky coachman was
most industriously sawing wood, luxuriating the
while in the warm beams of a June sun.

For our rustic job, he is known to these, gen-
tle reader, did not disdain, at a time of need, to
lay aside the dignity of his office, to stoop from
his pride of place to the preparation of fuel for
the kitchen fire, or to even yet more uncom-
monlike duties.

An old and somewhat humored servant, he
took upon himself, perhaps, a greater degree of
authority than was justly his right, and it was
with no small trepidation that I approached, not
to issue my commands but to fearfully proffer a
request.

He looked up as we drew near and suffered
his muscular arm to rest for a few minutes, as
with a world of hesitation I commenced my pre-
concerted address. But when, after an appear-
antly neverending preamble, the unparalleled
boldness of our designs became visible, the old
servant shook his head and leaned with redoub-
led industry over his saw.

But Theo laid his little hand upon his arm,
and bent down until she could look up into his
inflexible face.

"This once, good Cesar," she said pleadingly,

"Spare now you should dislocate your neck
and spile your beauty, what would the Colonel
say then?"

Let it be understood that in this honor giving
land, my father has been invested for force with
a title to which he has no more right than his
daughter.

Sill Theo persisted; and finding entreaties
of no avail, had recourse at last to positive com-
mands, enforced with extreme dignity. All
that she could say, however, only elicited the
never-fading reply.

"Spare now you should dislocate your neck
and spile your beauty, what would the Colonel
say then?"

At length, despairing of success, we returned
slowly to the house.

"I give up," said I, in the tone of one who real-
ly has yielded the point.

"I don't," replied Theo, determinedly. "I did
not care so much before, but now I am resolved.
Put on your bonnet, Ellen, and come with me."

In secret wonder I obeyed.

At a short distance from our house stood a
row of lively stables, kept by an Englishman, a
famous jockey, who had for some years past
taken up his abode near the village. Thither
Theo proceeded and finding the proprietor at
the door of his establishment, hastened to him
and ordered two of his best saddle-horses—to
be immediately sent to Colonel E—'s.

The man looked at her in doubt, hesitated,
and finally protested that he had but one horse
fit for a lady to ride, and upon that he would
trust Miss Ellen, and Miss Ellen only.

"Bring it out then," said Theo peremptorily;
"and let us judge for ourselves." Accordingly, a
skittish little sorrel was led forth and paraded
before us.

"A very tolerable animal," said Theo, with an
exquisite assumption of knowledge, making
use at the same time of the phrases she had
managed to catch up from her cousins. "You
will find him a very good hackney, Ellen, for he
has slight limbs, a thin neck, a small head, and
is quite narrow across the shoulders—not a drop
of blood in his veins, though."

The man stared as well he might, but the
horse was actually engaged, and Theo again
turned homeward.

She was indignant that the Englishman had
expressed so decided a distrust of her skill—

"She would borrow Fred's black Rupert, and he
would lend him to her notwithstanding old Ce-
sar's declaration that we should not mount a
horse in the stable."

I was breathless with astonishment. Ride
Fred's black Rupert, the most spirited animal in
the country! She who had not even learned to
manage her bridle. I endeavored earnestly to
dissuade her, but she was determined; and when
Fred called for a brave girl, and ordered his
favorite to be saddled immediately, I abandoned
all further remonstrance.

Fancy her, then, seated upon a tall, powerful
animal, her uncle's Spanish cloak buckled
round her slender waist in lieu of a habit skirt,
Fred's hunting cap, garnished by some of man-
na's discarded plumes, placed lightly upon her
floating curls, and lastly, a pair of long white
gloves drawn over her arms in imitation of the
military gauntlet.

"Oh! Theo," I exclaimed in dismay, "what
will the village think?"

"What they please," replied Miss Theo, "I
don't care—they are only country people, with
an air of ineffable disdain."

Bearing my self the blushing honors of rustic-
ity, I felt my pride ruffled in no small degree,
but as our infamy had not yet attained that
extreme warmth which so invariably ferments

a quarrel, I did not take advantage of the op-
portunity offered by the gods of war, but pru-
dently held my peace.

A few moments more, and with exulting
hearts, we were pacing down the road. Black
Rupert, fortunately, not yet recovered from the
fatigue of a long journey, proceeding without
any of his usual playful eccentricities, and the
sorrel, who at first had batted all designs against
his freedom, apparently subsiding into a praise-
worthy gentleness of demeanor.

It was the very hour for a ride. A slight
dimness lay upon the moist blue sky, as though
the warm lips of the morning had breathed up-
on its crystal mirror; the valleys were still and
shadowy, but like an onward breeze came
bounding from the mountains and with the first
breath of that keen air Black Rupert tossed his
glossy mane, laid his small ears back until his
tips nearly met, and then, without any further
warning, cantered joyously up one of the dark
wooded paths. I trembled for Theo, but she
had learned already the management of her
bride, and the paces of her spirited palfrey were
so singularly easy that she was enabled to re-
tain her place in the saddle with very little dif-
ficulty.

So after a scream of mingled delight
and terror, she wisely suffered him to take his
own course, and striking my vixenish little sor-
rel, I was soon at her side.

On, on we went, through that grand old for-
est, where the warning of the coiled rattlesnake
sounded as an echo to the clattering hoofs,
where the deer came forth and looked at us
with their beautiful wild eyes, and the daring
hawk, suspended between the earth and azure
celest, now wheeled in rapid circles above the
ghostly boughs, and now seemed lost in the misty
blue beyond.

Upon a broad clearing at the side of the
mountain stood a small log hut, and up to this
Theo now rode, cautiously checking her horse
before one of the windows. Having gazed in
for some minutes she returned to the bridle path
whispering to me with an air of grave mystery,
"Ellen, you asked me yesterday the meaning
of darkness visible, but he was too busy to an-
swer you. Look in at that window, as I have
said, and you will find it."

It was some delicate Ariel at that moment re-
leased from irksome bondage, that fled so lightly
directed. A sea of woolly heads and ebony
faces, all uplifted towards the rostrum from
which their orator was about to hold forth, met
my astonished gaze.

An irrepressible giggle betrayed me. I saw
a score of gleaming eyes roll suddenly towards
the window. With a faint scream I galloped at
full speed back again, and Theo at my side,
never drew rein until we reached the summit.

We kept on until noon, and then, but not
until then, did the propriety of retracing our
steps suggest itself. I thought that I remem-
bered a wood path by which we could return,
in a direction opposite to that in which we set
out, and my cousin was very willing to trust
himself to my guidance, into the wood-path.

A therefore, we struck, and pursued it for some
time with extremely pleasurable feelings. But
it chanced that in ascending a very steep hill
Theo's saddle so turned, that seated upon the
embowered flap she was compelled to keep it
on merely by her light weight. I was terrified.

Last her horse should become restive, but as I
have said, he had been subdued by exercise,
and was that day unusually gentle. So we
reached in safety the gate of a farm house at a
short distance, where I immediately springing to
the ground, and assisted my companion's de-
scent from her perilous elevation.

At this moment two women and a small boy
approached, and leaning over the fence slightly
contemplated our embarrassment. I thought
them to call a man who could tighten the loose-
ened girth, but they assured me there was not one
at home, and for themselves, they would not
venture near a horse for the world.

Theo and I, therefore, were compelled with
our united powers to fasten the buckle as secure-
ly as possible, nothing then remained for us but
to mount—no easy matter.

Black Rupert, after a moderate degree of
persuasion, suffered himself to be led to the rail
fence from which his rider climbed into the saddle,
but the perverse little sorrel resisted all allure-
ments, all commands. From the rough and un-
even road I was compelled to mount, tearing as
I did so, the most presentable portion of my
muslin dress the remainder having been worn
into tatters by the friction of the leather, against
which it had been pressed.

At this moment Theo discovered that she had
dropped her whip, and searching anxiously a-
bout the road, we discovered it at a little dis-
tance from the farm house. What was to be
done? To dismount was impossible and reduced
to extremities, I at last rode back to the gate.

"Will you oblige us, making by a riding your
little boy to pick up my cousin's whip?"

"Must I?" returned the elder of the three
old ladies of singularly unprepossessing ex-
terior. "Do you calculate me, I would trust
him so near your horse's heels?"

"Would that young woman, then, be so very
good?"

"I want to know! why she has been out of
the house before these six months; why, she's
been down sick."

"Would you, then, ma'am, I predicted. Our
sweet cousin Theo! God save her!" Now

er since his prayer of mine ascended to the
throne of Heaven with half the fervency of that
childish supplication.

They reached the bars. Black Rupert crouch-
ed like a whipped hound ere he made the leap.
But they flew over, and together. One more
fearful peril remained—the passage through the
low and narrow entrance to the stable. But
there, although I could not see him, stood my
father, and as the foaming horse rushed on with
lightning rapidity, he closed the door and fling-
ing his arms around Theo's waist, swung her
from the saddle. Then, but not till then, did
she faint, and that terrible suspension of the fac-
ulties seemed indeed like death itself.

We thought her blue eyes would never again
unclose, and that the breath would never more
return to the sweet lips that gasped apart, so
deadly white, so fearfully rigid. But she lived
although a violent attack of fever and delirium
proved the result of her terrible adventure.—
And Theo, never from that day has needed the
aid of a riding-master to perfect her wretched
skill, and never since has mounted a horse, how-
ever wilful, that she could not subdue by her
confidence and firmness. Such was the school
in which her dexterity was acquired, but I leave
it to recommend itself to my readers.

Very quietly now we proceeded. The calm
repose of noon seemed to have fallen like a seal
upon the lips of earth. The wind that hung
upon our path paused, at last, as though in very
weariness it had lain down to sleep upon the
green knolls and pleasant shadows. The boughs
above ceased their waving; the blue violet, that
our horses crushed at every step, nestled drow-
sily into the long grass; and the soft mist melted
from the sky, but a paving of thin, regularly
shaped clouds lay upon it like a mosaic of pearl
and sapphires. And noon wore on, until behind
the forest shades the blood-red sun descended,
while his rich light trickled through the boughs
and fell like liquid flame upon the massive trunks
and the brown leaves that lay heaped about
their roots.

Just then, as certain misgivings with regard
to the direction of the path we had followed be-
gan to assail, the dense forest suddenly thinned
into a park-like wood, and far beyond, the
blue lake glittering at its side, and its white
walls crimsoning in the sunset—far beyond, lay
our own beautiful home, never more beautiful
in my eyes than at that moment.

We both clapped our hands with joy, but our
exultation had no time to subside ere a soft
breath that flattered past us, and a tremulous
sigh that stole through the boughs above, came
down to us as the harbinger of approaching evil.

It was some delicate Ariel at that moment re-
leased from irksome bondage, that fled so lightly
directed. A sea of woolly heads and ebony
faces, all uplifted towards the rostrum from
which their orator was about to hold forth, met
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IN ADVANCE
THE PROGRESS
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PROLOGUE

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